

# MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

July 8, 2010

## External tank for final shuttle flight gets New Orleans send-off

*From NASA Headquarters*

NASA and Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company will hold a ceremony at 9 a.m. CDT on July 8 at the agency's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. The event will commemorate 37 years of successful tank deliveries and the final external tank's rollout for the last space shuttle flight.

NASA Television and the agency's website will broadcast the ceremony live. Coverage begins at 8:45 a.m. NASA and Lockheed Martin senior managers will participate in the ceremony.

The last external tank scheduled to fly on a shuttle mission was completed June 25 by Lockheed Martin

workers at Michoud. The tank, designated ET-138, will travel on a wheeled transporter one mile to the Michoud barge dock. It will be accompanied by the Storyville Stompers, a traditional area brass band, and hundreds of handkerchief-waving employees in typical New Orleans fashion and spirit.

The tank will travel on a 900-mile sea journey to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where it will support space shuttle Endeavour's STS-134 launch.

NASA TV will broadcast the events on its media and high-definition channels. For streaming video, schedules and downlink information, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

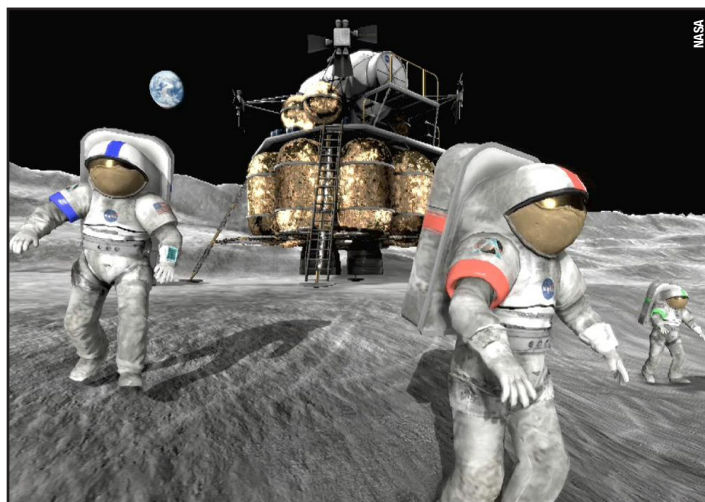
NASA will tweet during the ceremony. To follow, visit <http://www.twitter.com/NasaSmokeNfire>.

## NASA sends gamers to the moon to tackle 'Moonbase Alpha'

NASA's "Moonbase Alpha" is open for business – for video gamers who want to suit up and embark on a realistic lunar adventure.

The free, online video game, which debuted July 6, casts one to six players as exploration team members – part of a bustling, futuristic lunar outpost crippled by a meteor strike. Players must work to restore critical power systems and oxygen flow, walking across the moon's surface and piloting a lunar rover to navigate the harsh environment and complete a series of tasks. At their disposal: an interactive command center, a fully stocked equipment shed and sophisticated, mobile robotic repair units.

Moonbase Alpha is a proof of concept, said Jeff Ehmen, a Marshall Space Flight Center education programs specialist with the Academic Affairs Office, part of the Office of Human Capital. The game demonstrates how rich NASA content can be combined with a cutting-edge game engine to inspire, engage and educate students about agency technologies, job opportunities and the future of space exploration.



Screen shot from Moonbase Alpha.

The game, rated "E" for players of all ages, is available for free download on the Steam network at <http://store.steampowered.com>, and can be played on most personal computers. More

*See Game on page 2*

# *NASA plays key exploration role in new administration space policy*

*From NASA Headquarters*

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's new National Space Policy:

"NASA is pleased to be an integral part of President Obama's National Space Policy. NASA's new direction, announced as part of the fiscal year 2011 budget, is embodied in the new National Space Policy. I would like to thank Lori Garver, my deputy, who led this policy review for NASA, and Phil McAlister, the NASA representative, who led our working group effort.

"NASA has a key role in achieving the goals defined in the new policy. We are committed to working with other agencies, industry, and international partners to achieve national goals in exploration – human and robotic – and technology development that will ensure a robust future for the U.S. and our friends around the world.

"The new space policy sets our nation on a path to develop the next generation of capabilities we will need to live and work in space. Human and robotic exploration will flourish and bring

a wealth of economic and scientific dividends. We will reach new horizons of discovery and expand the reach of humans throughout the solar system.

"This policy embraces the historical roles of the agency, such as research and development of launch systems, robotic missions to destinations throughout the solar system, and Earth science, including climate change.

"But it also challenges NASA to embrace new roles and areas of emphasis, such as enhancing use of the International Space Station, identifying and characterizing of near-Earth objects, and eliminating or limiting orbital debris and its danger to spacecraft.

"In addition, we will expand our partnerships with private industry, allowing commercial companies to take a larger role in the exploration of space while NASA pursues those activities the agency is uniquely qualified to do.

"This policy will enable a vibrant, job-creating, transportation system for taking humans to and from low-Earth orbit, which should significantly contribute to the national economy,

benefit all of our nation's citizens, and enable exploration beyond low-Earth orbit. This policy promises to transform human spaceflight for future generations.

"As we pursue the capabilities of the future, our work will make life better for people here on Earth. Our focus on innovation will generate new jobs in new industries and revitalize the country's industrial base for space.

"At the same time, NASA will strengthen and improve its Earth-observing capabilities and develop new tools for decision-makers to use this crucial data. Building on our history of international partnerships, we will forge new relationships with nations of all sizes to leverage our resources and achieve more than we could on our own.

"NASA stands ready to again transform our perspectives and expectations, and help the nation reach its highest potential."

The White House has posted the National Space Policy at

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national\\_space\\_policy\\_6-28-10.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_space_policy_6-28-10.pdf).

## **Game** *Continued from page 1*

than 25 million gamers use Steam, a platform created and managed by gaming company Valve of Bellevue, Wash.

Moonbase Alpha has roots in a successful government gaming effort, Ehmen said. The project started in 2005, when Marshall education personnel were briefed on "America's Army," a sophisticated military training game developed by the Army Game Studio, part of the Software Engineering Directorate on Redstone Arsenal.

"We talked with Army developers at length," Ehmen said. "We wanted to explore whether we could create a stimulating, informative, educational NASA game leveraging the experience of the America's Army team."

Ehmen said the development team worked with partners across NASA to acquire data, refine the game's story and parameters, and obtain realistic models for the lunar outpost, vehicles and hardware. Funding was provided by NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate and

Exploration Systems Mission Directorate.

NASA teamed with the Army Game Studio and Virtual Heroes, a division of Applied Research Associates of Research Triangle Park, N.C. The game, built on Epic Games' Unreal Engine 3, is the first in NASA's Learning Technologies project, which supports the delivery of NASA content through interactive technologies and software applications. Its primary goal is to enhance science, technology, engineering and math education in classrooms and learning centers nationwide.

Moonbase Alpha is a precursor to NASA's planned massively multiplayer online game project – a virtual world that could connect numerous players working in tandem to solve challenges and explore new destinations.

"It's our hope that Moonbase Alpha is just the start for NASA gaming," Ehmen said.

For more information about Moonbase Alpha, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/moonbasealpha/>.

# Classified Ads

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To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Marshall Star Ad Form." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, July 15, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 8.

## Miscellaneous

Canon 30D Body, box, manuals, \$250. 256-527-8116

Britax Marathon convertible car seat, black cover, \$100. 256-417-1081

Yamaha YAS-200AD alto saxophone, \$900. 256-738-8048

Twin beds, mattresses, dresser, chest, \$250; King-sized bed, dresser, chest, nightstand, \$400. 256-658-0638 or 256-230-0333

Red oak Brunswick full size pool table, pool stick stand/sticks/balls, \$1,800 obo. 256-316-3469

John Deere mower seat, LX series, new cover, \$75. 325-6000

32-inch Panasonic tube TV, \$100; 26-inch tube TV, \$75. 256-684-2256

Multi-purpose, painted pine corner cabinet, adjustable shelves, \$75. 256-722-2190

Nintendo Wii, lots of accessories, \$300. 205-394-1307

Kasson pool table, fruitwood, Queen Anne feet, leather pockets, \$2,500. 256-880-6563

Solid oak bar, \$1,500 obo; two oak wall units, \$75 each; photos available. 256-653-4835

Beige leather sofa, loveseat; call for pics and price. 256-325-7641

Carrier 5400 Btu/hr window air conditioner, \$65. 256-651-5847

Playstation 3 game, Little BIG Planet, Game of the Year edition, rated E, \$30. 256-828-1234

Size 5 shoes, \$10 pair. 256-466-4500

Havanese female, 18 months old, AKC champion bloodlines, silver/cream/black, \$650. 931-455-7303

John Deere front reel mower, model 20SR7, seven blades, high-speed reel, \$350. 256-353-0370 or 253-208-2926

Vintage wooden high chair, safety belt added, \$35. 256-722-2190

Kenmore canister vacuum, power nozzle, blue, 12 amps, \$85. 256-837-6776

Full-size ping pong table, you pick up, \$75. 256-883-1722

Sofa/loveseat combo, sectional wedge, sage green, \$1,500 obo. 256-289-6115

Entertainment center, expandable, 108" to 132," lots of storage, \$400 obo. 256-990-2280

Jenn-Air Radiant Downdraft Cooktop, model JED8430, black, variable speed vent, \$300. 256-288-0906

Easton Stealth CNT youth bat, LST9, Sc900 alloy, 32/19, 2.25" barrel, 9-10 year olds, \$60. 256-351-1754

75-gallon aquarium, stand, accessories, \$250; 150-gallon aquarium, stand, accessories,

\$450. 256-682-5206

Mariner 9.9 hp outboard motor, low hours, \$450. 256-430-6897

Pro-form Crosswalk treadmill, folds up, upper body poles, \$175. 256-880-9025

DeWalt 18-volt power tool battery, \$40. 256-883-0568

## Vehicles

2009 Pontiac G8, white, 41k miles. 256-338-9840

2008 Yamaha TTR230 dirt bike, 10 hours, \$2,500. 931-212-5191

2008 Acura MDX, entertainment system, third row seat, 42,200 miles, \$34,500. 256-325-6491

2006 Toyota Tundra double cab, black, tan interior, bed cover, 52k miles, \$17,000. 256-837-8389

2004 CRF250R, \$1,600. 256-783-3428

2004 Honda Accord EX, white, leather, auto, 125k miles,

\$8,500. 423-309-8926

2003 Mercedes E320, extended warranty, \$17,000 obo. 256-721-4583

2001 Harley Davidson FXDXT, cherry/black, SE pipes, Stage 1 kit, more, \$9,000. 256-464-9871

2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse RS, silver, automatic, 78k miles, \$3,950. 256-655-9464

1998 GMC LWB truck, white, 177k miles, \$4,400. 256-468-9377

1998 Mitsubishi Diamante ES, needs some work, \$700. 256-721-5724

1998 Ford Windstar GL, tan, auto, 3.8 V6 engine, 118k miles, \$3,700. 256-617-9614

454 International diesel tractor, \$4,500. 256-379-4010

Rare 1966 Chevy Factory 4X4, build paper and history, 68,800 miles, \$20,000. 256-489-5318

Kawasaki KX85 dirt bike, less than 15 hours ridden, \$2,200. 256-489-2732

## Found

U.S. currency, Building 4200 lobby near the north door, June 23; pair of black-rimmed female reading glasses, red case, Building 4200, room 613. 256-544-4680

## Free

Two female tabby cats, spayed, all shots, food, accessories. 256-642-6140

## Wanted

Electrical work to do, wiring houses, detached garage, yard lights, adding/removing switches, lights, plugs. 256-468-8906

Houses/offices to clean, available evenings and weekends. 256-777-8595 leave message

Modem for AT&T DSL. 256-883-2757

Touring road bike with light frame; light frame girl's bike. 256-881-9426

# Shuttle Program manager John Shannon congratulates shuttle, station teams for extraordinary 7 launches over a year

By Sanda Martel

From May 11, 2009, to May 14, 2010, seven space shuttle flights were launched by shuttle and International Space Station teams. And Space Shuttle Program manager John Shannon is making sure the teams realize just how extraordinary that is.

In a June 14 e-mail to shuttle workers, Shannon noted this was accomplished after independent studies showed in early 2009 that there was a less-than-20-percent likelihood that such a flight rate could be achieved.

"These government and contractor teams are unquestionably performing at an incredibly high level," said Shannon. "I am extremely proud of how all of the team are maintaining their focus and completing the incredible legacy of the Space Shuttle Program."

During this high-flight-rate period, teams set records



STS-132 launch May 14

of high performance in the areas of shuttle processing, vehicle integration, fewer debris releases during launch, lowest number of thermal protection system damages on the orbiter and lowest number of in-flight anomalies. Production teams also have met or significantly bested all processing milestones for hardware deliveries to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, he said.

Shannon noted that if the STS-119 launch in March 2009 is included in the period considered, eight shuttle flights were launched in a 14-month period.

The two remaining space shuttle missions include STS-133, targeted to launch Nov. 1, and STS-134, scheduled for launch Feb. 26.

*Martel, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

## Space Exploration Celebration to be held July 16

The Space Exploration Celebration – formerly the Saturn/Apollo Reunion – will be held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville on July 16.

The reunion is for those who worked in the U.S. space program and for citizens who support space exploration. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Davidson Center for Space Exploration with a buffet barbecue dinner that will

be served until 7 p.m. A brief program on current NASA projects will follow.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Children 3 years old and under are free.

For ticket information and details about the event visit: [http://www.spacecamp.com/store/Space\\_Exploration\\_Celebration.html](http://www.spacecamp.com/store/Space_Exploration_Celebration.html).

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